

## **Webinar FAQs: Elections and Coronavirus COVID-19**

**Q: Is outdoor voting required for every polling place?**

A: No, but curbside voting is required to be offered to voters who are unable to enter the polling place due to a disability.

**Q: Clarify- We can insist on hand washing/sanitizing but “encourage” mask wearing. Will the signage the WEC provides have a “masks encouraged” sign included?**

A: You cannot require voters to wear masks or sanitize their hands before voting. Election inspectors and signage can encourage the use of both, but a voter who refuses must still be allowed to vote.

**Q: Can we offer masks to the voters and request that they wear them? Or is that an overstep?**

A: Inspectors can offer masks, but voters do not have to wear them.

**Q: If we hand carry outgoing absentee ballots in person to the post office, should we get the name of the postal worker who receives those ballots?**

A: You can, but the mail exchanges several hands, so I am not sure that will help. The smart barcode on the absentee will help track the journey of the ballot from the post office to the voter and back.

**Q: Is the purchase of another DS-200 allowed under the subgrant to process the increase in absentee ballots?**

A: Please contact the Help Desk and ask for a financial specialist.

**Q: Can you add a scent to the gallon containers that we received at the County Clerk’s offices?**

A: I know, phew! The sanitizer we are set to receive has a more pleasant scent.

**Q: Can we just apply for the grant or do we need to list our expenses first?**

A: Please contact the Help Desk and ask for a financial specialist.

**Q: I am a clerk for a small municipality and I get paid a salary of \$500/month. I am not hourly. My absentee requests went from 5 to 180+. Obviously, I had to put in a huge amount of time to get them all processed. However, no additional cost was realized by the town as I am salary. Is there any recourse for salaried officials to get compensated for this additional requirement?**

A: Please contact the Help Desk, request a financial specialist and ask if this may qualify for grant money.

**Q: Can you address curbside voting during in-person absentee voting?**

A: Clerks must offer curbside voting during in person absentee voting hours for voters who are unable to enter the polling place due to a disability. We have detailed procedures for curbside voting posted on our website.

**Q: Any advice on handling voter ID when handed to workers?**

A: See the poll worker training video on the COVID page of the WEC website.

**Q: Do two election inspectors have to take the poll book out?**

A: Curbside voting is conducted by two poll workers, but the poll book is not taken outside with them. The poll book is marked exempt in the signature block for curbside voters.

**Q: Drive through. Do the voters still have to provide ID?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Are discussions in place in case we have to go 100% absentee voting?**

A: That would require a legislative change or court decision, neither of which is pending before the legislature.

**Q: Masks are now required indoors in Dane County?**

A: They are required statewide through September 28 under Governor Evers' order.

**Q: When do we get the check for the grant?**

A: The financial team turns around the reimbursements quickly.

**Q: I think it was brought up before- that the polling place must be either all inside or outside- including the tabulator**

A: The polling area is set up either all inside as usual, or outdoors, which includes the voting equipment, poll book, election inspectors, etc.

**Q: When checking a photo ID do you ask them to take off their mask? I saw on the news last night that banks are going to do that**

A: The photo ID must reasonably conform to the voter. If you are unable to make this comparison, you can ask the voter to move the mask briefly.

**Q: Can the Clerk and Deputy Clerk go outside to assist the curbside voter versus the election inspectors so the poll workers are not leaving the polling place?**

A: If they are appointed as election inspectors.

**Q: Can the clerk appoint him/herself and the deputy clerk as elections inspectors?**

A: Yes, if you are not on the ballot.

**Q: With poll workers, we are supposed to appoint them at a meeting the December before the election years. With the current COVID situation, is this requirement now waived?**

A: Clerks have always been able to appoint election inspectors to fill vacancies for an election and do not have to bring the appointment to their governing body. This statutory process has not changed.

**Q: Just want to share our idea for signing the pollbook. We are having the voter sign a label and then the election worker will put the label in the signature line of pollbook. This is how we handled the April drive thru election and we will continue to use this, so the pollbook is not touched by all the voters.**

A: We heard from a number of clerks who used labels for the April election. It seemed to work very well.

**Q: Is the spray the good vodka stuff, or is it that not so pleasant-smelling stuff from the May special election?**

A: It should be the better smelling stuff!

**Q: Do curbside voters still have to show their ID?**

A: Yes

**Q: What if they have a black bag over their head, can we make them open the bag somewhat to see?**

A: If they have a black bag over their head you will not be able to determine if they reasonably resemble their photo ID. They should be asked to remove the black bag so the inspectors could make the comparison to the photo ID. If the voter refuses, do not issue them a ballot.